

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01317 050925Z

14-10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IGA-01 MC-02 ACDA-05 EUR-12 /079 W

----- 024572

R 050840Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8379

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS: TS

SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA

REF: (A) STATE 43531

1. AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 4 CONVEYED TO ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENSE BENNOUR POINTS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 8 IN REFTEL. THUS, AMBASSADOR INDICATED INTER ALIA THAT (A) USG PREPARED AND ABLE TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO SELLING MOST EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY TUNISIANS, ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD BE DELAYS RE CERTAIN TYPES OF EQUIPMENT: (B) GRANT PROGRAM FOR TUNISIA TERMINATES ONCE AND FOR ALL AT END OF CURRENT FISCAL YEAR (FY-75); (C) USG HOPES, HOWEVER, TO INCREASE CREDITS FOR TUNISIA, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT OF COVERING SOME OF TUNISIA'S PRIORITY NEEDS.

2. FURTHER, AMBASSADOR RE-EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THAT GOT PREPARE LIST OF EQUIPMENT PRIORITIES, AS WELL AS TIME FRAME GOT ENVISAGES FOR COMPLETING ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN PACKAGE. I NOTED THAT JOINT GROUP FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND USLOT WOULD BE MEETING SHORTLY ON THIS FOLLOWING UP MEETING BETWEEN CHUSLOT AND HIS TUNISIAN COUNTERPART.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01317 050925Z

3. I SAID THAT WASHINGTON WELCOMES A PROPOSED VISIT

BY MINISTER KHEFACHA FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS. I SAID WE ASSUME THAT MINISTER WILL HAVE WITH HIM THE TUNISIAN LIST OF EQUIPMENT PRIORITIES, AS WELL AS A CLEAR INDICATION OF AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM TUNISIAN BUDGET. I SAID I ALSO SUPPOSED THAT GOT WOULD BE APPROACHING ARAB FRIENDS FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

4. BENNOUR SAID THAT BEFORE GOT COULD EARMARK FUNDS IT NEEDED TO KNOW HOW MUCH USG CREDIT WOULD BE AVAILABLE. I SAID TROUBLE IS THAT REVERSE IS ALSO TRUE: USG RECEPTIVITY WILL DEPEND TO A DEGREE ON EXTENT TO WHICH GOT PREPARED TO COMMIT ITS OWN RESOURCES. IF GOT IS DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH ARMS PACKAGE, IT IS PRESUMABLY PREPARED TO PUT IN ITS OWN MONEY. I SAID THAT ANY GOT RELUCTANCE TO PULL ITS OWN OAR IN THIS REGARD WOULD CAST DOUBT ON ITS FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT TO MODERN MILITARY PACKAGE IN VIEW OF CURRENTLY FAVORABLE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION IN TUNISIA. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES CONGRESSIONAL REACTION MIGHT WELL BE NEGATIVE. THEREFORE, GOT SHOULD ALLOCATE CERTAIN AMOUNT FOR EQUIPMENT AT OUTSET, WHICH COULD LATER BE ADJUSTED IF NECESSARY. BENNOUR GOT THIS POINT, BUT INDICATED AGAIN THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO FIX A TUNISIAN FIGURE. MORE NEEDS TO BE KNOWN FIRST RE COSTS, PRIORITIES, ETC., AS WELL AS AMOUNTS OF US CREDITS. I SAID AT THE LEAST KHEFACHA SHOULD GO TO STATES ARMED WITH FIRM GOT COMMITMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR THIS PACKAGE.

5. BENNOUR SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING TO ATTENTION OF "HIGHER AUTHORITIES" WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM AND THAT KHEFACHA WOULD PLAN TO VISIT WASHINGTON BEFORE MAY. HE THANKED US FOR OUR POSITIVE RESPONSE, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS CONSISTENT WITH TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP.

6. COMMENT. BENNOUR MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT DISAPPOINTED THAT WE COULD NOT DO BETTER, BUT HE IS TOO MUCH OF A PROFESSIONAL TO LET ON. ON OTHER HAND, I DOUBT THAT HE EXPECTED MORE. HE KNEW GRANT AID WOULD PROBABLY COME TO AN END ABOUT NOW AND HE APPRECIATES REALITIES OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON. HE WAS CLEARLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 01317 050925Z

PLEASED KHEFACHA WILL BE GOING TO WASHINGTON. WE CERTAINLY SEEM TO HAVE RESPONDED MORE POSITIVELY THAN THE FRENCH. FRENCH AMBASSADOR GAUCHER TELLS ME THAT SIMILAR PITCH TO GOT FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT MET WITH BLANK STARES. SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TUNIS01317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-1169
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750378/aaaacste.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 43531
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA
TAGS: MASS, TS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006